

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on April 17, 2007, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 10, 11, 22-24, and 36-43 are amended, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-48 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claims 10, 22 and 23 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant was required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

Dependent Claims 10, 22 and 23 are currently amended to clarify the further limitation of the subject matter from their respective previous claim. Applicant respectfully requests the claim objections be withdrawn.

§ 112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 10, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 36 was rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 37-42 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Dependent Claims 10, 22 and 23 are currently amended to clarify how the multiple integrated circuit control is respectively utilized in combination with the printing device and application specific integrated circuit (ASIC). Independent Claim 36 is currently amended to clarify aspects of communicating a control parity bit. Claims 37-42 are currently amended to remove "One or more" media as being

redundant, since media already conveys to one of ordinary skill in the art a collective embodiment for maintaining computer executable instructions in both a singular or plural implementation. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the § 112, second paragraph, rejections to Claims 10, 22, 23, and 36-42 be withdrawn.

§ 102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-9, 11, 12, 15-21, 26-34 and 37-48 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schutte (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,138).

Applicant respectfully traverses the 102 rejections as follows.

Independent Claims 1, 11, 24, 37, and 43 are currently amended to clarify the clock signal being generated by only the multiple integrated circuit control. This feature is illustrated in Figure 1 of the present disclosure by only the multiple integrated circuit control 102 having a clock out 128, and the integrated circuits 104 having only a clock in 116.

Schutte appears to describe a bus system wherein any of the alleged integrated circuits may control the clock signal, either as a master, or as a slave simultaneous with the master by delaying the rising edge of the clock signal (see Col. 8, Lines 43-47).

In contrast, Applicant's independent Claims 1 and 11, as amended, recite "a clock signal generated by only the multiple integrated circuit controller." As such, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every element and limitation of independent Claims 1 and 11, as amended, is not present in the Schutte reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 102 rejection of independent Claims 1 and 11, as amended, as well as dependent Claims 2-9 that depend from Claim 1, and Claims 12 and 15-21 that depend from Claim 11.

Similarly, Applicant's independent Claim 24, as amended, recites "a clock signal generated from only a multiple integrated circuit control;" independent Claim 37, as amended, recites "a clock signal generated from only the multiple integrated circuit control;" and independent Claim 43, as amended, recites "a clock signal

driven only by a first push-pull driver” (emphasis added). Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every element and limitation of the above-mentioned independent claims, as amended, is not present in the Schutte reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 102 rejection of independent Claims 11, 24, 37, and 43, as amended, as well as the claims that respectively depend therefrom.

With particular respect to dependent claims 6, 18, 29, 39 and 45, it does not appear that the Schutte reference describes the limitation of communicating a continuous clock signal generated by the multiple integrated circuit controller. The Examiner suggests that a continuous clock signal is the unvarying, steady signal illustrated in Figure 5 of the Schutte reference during high-speed mode. However, continuous clock timing, as set forth in the present invention, refers to maintaining the oscillating clock signal beyond periods of data transmission, i.e., continuously, as is illustrated in Figure 3 of the present disclosure.

The clock signal suggested by the Examiner as illustrating a continuous clock signal, i.e., the portion of SCLk in Hs-mode as shown in Figure 5, shows no clock oscillations. The illustrated clock signal stops oscillating, and is thus not continuous, as defined in the present disclosure and claimed.

Applicant respectfully submits that due to the need for arbitration to determine control of the bus, the protocol described in the Schutte reference starts from a quiet state of the bus, in which the clock conductors (e.g., SCL and SCLH) are at one of the steady DC power supply potentials, i.e., not oscillating continuously. The Schutte reference appears to teach away from a continuous clock signal since a continuously oscillating clock signal generated by one of the many circuits is incompatible with the need to arbitrate for control of the bus described in the Schutte reference. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every element and limitation of Claims 6, 18, 29, 39 and 45, as amended, is not present in the Schutte reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 102 rejection of these claims.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 10 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schutte (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,138) in view of Kawamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,967,744).

Claims 13, 14, 25 and 35 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schutte (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,138) in view of Lattice Semiconductor Corporation, "Different Signaling" – dated May 2001 (hereafter referred to as Lattice).

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schutte (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,138) in view of Baker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,168,006)

Claim 36 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schutte (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,138) in view of Oppedahl (U.S. Patent No. 5,500,861).

Applicant respectfully traverses the 103 rejections as follows.

Claims 10 and 22 depend from one of independent Claims 1 and 11 respectively. For the reasons provided above with respect to the 102 rejections, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 11 are allowable in view of the Schutte reference. From the Applicant's review, the Kawamoto reference does not cure the deficiencies of the Schutte reference with respect to Claims 1 and 11. That is, the Kawamoto reference does not describe, teach or suggest a clock signal generated by only the multiple integrated circuit controller. As such, the references do not, either independently or in combination, describe, teach or suggest each and every element and limitation of independent Claims 1 or 11, as amended. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 103 rejection of dependent Claims 10 and 22 which depend from allowable Claim 1 and 11 respectively.

Claims 13, 14, 25 and 35 depend from one of independent Claims 11 and 24 respectively. For the reasons provided above with respect to the 102 rejections, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 11 and 24 are allowable in view of the Schutte reference. From the Applicant's review, the Lattice reference does not cure the deficiencies of the Schutte reference with respect to Claims 11 and 24. That is, the Lattice reference does not describe, teach or suggest a clock signal generated from only a multiple integrated circuit control.

As such, the references do not, either independently or in combination, describe, teach or suggest each and every element and limitation of independent Claims 11 or 24, as amended. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 103 rejection of dependent Claims 13, 14, 25 and 35 which depend from allowable Claim 11 and 24 respectively.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine the differential signalling features of the Lattice reference with the bus system set forth in the Schutte reference. In particular, the Schutte reference describes a high speed mode which makes use of switchable current sources to actively increase the speed with which the potential of the clock signal is pulled towards the second power supply connection. Applicant respectfully submits that the current injection aspects described in the Schutte reference are not compatible with, and could not be implemented in, a two-wire differential signalling scheme. As such, the requisite motivation to combine the references is not present. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 103 rejection of dependent Claims 13, 14, 25 and 35.

Claim 36 depends from independent Claims 24. For the reasons provided above with respect to the 102 rejections, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 24 is allowable in view of the Schutte reference. From the Applicant's review, the Oppedahl reference does not cure the deficiencies of the Schutte reference with respect to Claim 24. That is, the Oppedahl reference does not describe, teach or suggest a clock signal generated from only a multiple integrated circuit control. Therefore, the references do not, either independently or

in combination, describe, teach or suggest each and every element and limitation of Claim 36, as amended. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 103 rejection of dependent Claim 36.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney Robert Wasson at (360) 212-2338 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: **MS AMENDMENT** Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 25th day of June, 2007.

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Date: 6/25/2007